

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheets include changes to Figures 1 – 3. In Figures 1 – 3, the figures have been identified as “Prior Art.” No other changes have been made.

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In the Office Action mailed April 13, 2007, claims 1 – 9 were rejected. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 and canceled claim 5. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below provided remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action states that claim 1 recites “the limitation ‘an input’ in line 1, and further recites the limitations ‘an input signal’ in line 3, where it is unclear whether both ‘input’ are the same or different. Furthermore, it is unclear which input ‘said input signal’ in lines 3 – 4 is in reference to. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.” In response, claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out the difference between the “input signal (Vin)” and the “input signal (vin)” (lowercase “vin”) of the bootstrap switch (14a). Throughout the claims and as clearly depicted in Fig. 5 of Applicant’s specification, the term “input signal (Vin)” is used as the input signal to the track-and-hold circuit and the term “input signal (vin)” is used as the input signal to the bootstrap switches (14a) and (14b). In view of the amendments to claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5. Claim 5 has also been amended to recite that the bootstrap switch has as an output to switch (10), “a clock signal (clkboot) equal to $V_{in} + V_{dd}$.” Support for this amendment is found in Applicant’s specification at, for example, paragraph [0021]. As amended, claim 1 recites:

“A track-and-hold circuit having an input signal (Vin) and an output signal (Vs), a bootstrap switch (14a) having as its inputs a clock signal and an input signal (vin), said input signal (vin) of said bootstrap switch (14a) being connected to said output signal (Vs) of said circuit via level shifting (20) and buffering means (30), characterized in that said input signal (vin) of said bootstrap switch (14a) comprises said output signal (Vs) of said circuit; the track-and-hold circuit further comprising a

capacitor (12), said input signal (Vin) being connected to said capacitor (12) via a switch (10), said switch (10) being closed during a track mode of said circuit and open during a hold mode of said circuit, *said bootstrap switch (14a) having as an output to said switch (10), a clock signal (clkboot) equal to $V_{in} + V_{dd}$.*" (emphasis added)

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dedic (U.S. Pat. No. 5,384,570). Applicant asserts that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Dedic because Dedic does not disclose a track-and-hold circuit that includes a "bootstrap switch (14a) having as an output to said switch (10), a clock signal (clkboot) equal to $V_{in} + V_{dd}$ " as recited in claim 1. Dedic discloses in Fig. 3 a voltage storage circuit that includes "an electronic switch element 1" and "a bootstrapped switch driving device 4,5." Referring to Fig. 3 of Dedic, the output of element (4) includes "Vhigh" and "Vlow." Either Vhigh or Vlow is provided to the electronic switch element (1). Although Dedic discloses outputs Vhigh and Vlow, Dedic does not disclose a bootstrap switch having as an output "*a clock signal (clkboot) equal to $V_{in} + V_{dd}$* " as recited in claim 1. Because Dedic does not disclose a "bootstrap switch (14a) having as an output to said switch (10), a clock signal (clkboot) equal to $V_{in} + V_{dd}$ " as recited in claim 1, Applicant asserts that claim 1 is not anticipated by Dedic.

Dependent Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9

Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 are dependent on claim 1. Applicant respectfully asserts claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 are allowable at least based on an allowable base claim.

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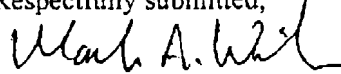
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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 50-3444 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account 50-3444 under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,



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